

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

ARQ is implemented in a fixed wireless communication system utilizing a demand access MAC, such as DOCSIS, and variable length PDUs, such as Ethernet packets, in messages between a base station and CPE. The base station inserts a sequence number into each PDU. The sequence numbers are members of a series, adjacent ones differing by the same factor. The CPE determines if any sequence number/s is/are missing from the packets of a received message, indicating a failure to receive their associated packets. The missing sequence numbers are included in a message back to the base station, which uses them to re-send the missing packets. The series may be generated according to a rule or algorithm available to both the base station and the CPE.